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EXAMINER	
JACOBS, LASHONDA T	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2157	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/904,300	SHAFRON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LaShonda T Jacobs	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 January 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-31,33-61 and 63-84* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-31, 33-61 and 63-84* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is a Office Action in response to Applicants' RCE filed on January 14, 2005. Claims 1-31, 33-61 and 63-84 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims **1-2**, **4-9**, **11-12**, **14**, **16-21**, **23**, **30**, **36-37**, **39**, **41-43**, **45**, **47-49**, **56**, **63-71** and **73-75** and **77-83** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton et al (hereinafter, "Shelton", U.S. Pat. No. 5,954,798) in view of Gavrilescu et al (hereinafter, "Gavrilescu", U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0198941).

As per claims **1**, **23**, **36**, and **49**, Shelton discloses a method and system for enabling a first computer to communicate and exchange data with a second computer, the first computer and the second computer each having a browser and being in communication with each other via a network, said method and system comprising:

- downloading, to the first computer, computer code comprising a first script operable in connection with the first computer for accessing a function of a first control loaded on the first computer for operation in conjunction with said first computer browser, the first script being further operable for receiving data input by a user of the first computer and

for causing the first control to communicate with the server and to transmit the data input by the user to the server, wherein the first script and the first control are separate components (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44 and col. 7, lines 25-41);

- enabling the user of the first computer to communicate with the second computer to present a request for synchronization with the user of the first computer, the second computer having a second script and a second control loaded thereon and operable in connection therewith for operation in conjunction with said second computer browser, wherein the second script and the second control are separate components (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44 and col. 7, lines 25-41);
- controlling Internet navigation of the second computer based upon Internet navigation of the first computer wherein the first script and the first control and the second script and the second control are independent from Web pages that are displayed on the first computer and the second computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19); and
- causing the server to transmit the data received from the first script to the second computer for receipt by the second control (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

However, Shelton does not explicitly disclose:

- enabling the user of the second computer to agree to synchronize with the user of the first computer; and
- enabling the user of the first computer to synchronize with the user of the second computer;

In an analogous art, Gavrilescu discloses a method for co-browsing web sites concurrently in a synchronized manner by two or more users comprising:

- enabling the user of the second computer to agree to synchronize with the user of the first computer (see pg. 1, par. 0008-0015, pg. 2, par. 0028-0030, and pg. 3, par. 0036-0040); and
- enabling the user of the first computer to synchronize with the user of the second computer (see pg. 1, par. 0008-0015, pg. 2, par. 0028-0030, and pg. 3, par. 0036-0040); and

Given the teaching of Gavrilescu, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Shelton by allowing a first computer to synchronize with a second computer so that the information on the first computer is displayed in the browser of the second computer concurrently.

As per claims **11**, and **42**, Shelton further discloses:

- downloading, to the second computer, second computer code comprising a second script operable in connection with the second computer for accessing a function of a second control loaded on the second computer for operation in conjunction with said second computer browser , the second script being further operable for receiving data input by user of the second computer, wherein the second script and the second control are separate components wherein the first script and the first control and the second script and the second control are independent from Web pages that are displayed on the first computer and the second computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claims **63** and **74**, Shelton further discloses:

- downloading, to the first computer, computer code comprising a first script, wherein the script is written in a Web-based scripting language, operable in connection with the first computer for accessing a function of a first control for operation in conjunction with said first computer browser, wherein the control is written in a programming language and is compiled, the control being loaded on the first computer the script being further operable for receiving data input by user of the first computer and for causing the first control to communicate with a server and to transmit data input by the user to the server, wherein the first script and the first control are separate components wherein the first script and the first control and the second script and the second control are independent from Web pages that are displayed on the first computer and the second computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claim **73**, Shelton further discloses:

- defining in a database in the server a synchronization group (col. 6, lines 52-53), and wherein the function of the first control comprises;
- a login function to enable the user of the first and second computer to login to a synchronization group (col. 11, lines 33-48);
- a synchronization function to enable the user of the first and second computer to synchronize with a member of the synchronization group (col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19); and

- a navigation function to enable control of the Internet navigation of a computer of the member of the synchronization group based upon the Internet navigation of the first computer wherein the first script and the first control and the second script and the second control are independent from Web pages that are displayed on the first computer and the second computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claims **4**, **66** and **77**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the first script can display data output to the user of the first computer (col. 3, lines 1-14, and lines 20-42).

As per claim **16**, Shelton further discloses:

- wherein the second script can display data output to the user of the first computer.

As per claims **2**, **12**, **39**, **64** and **75**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the computer code further comprises the first control.

As per claims **14** and **45**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the second computer code further comprises the second control (col. 1, lines 54-67, col. 3, lines 20-23, and Fig. 1).

As per claims **8**, **20**, **41**, **47**, and **48**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the first script is operable in connection with the first computer by opening a web page containing the first script (col. 3, lines 33-42, and col. 4, lines 18-26), and
- wherein the second script is operable in connection with the second computer by opening a web page containing the second script (col. 3, lines 63-67, col. 4, lines 1-5, and lines 18-26).

As per claims **9**, **21**, **37**, **43** and **71**, Shelton discloses wherein the server has defined in a database thereon a synchronization group (col. 3, lines 58-63), wherein the function of the first and second control comprises:

- a login function to enable the user of the first and second computer to login to a synchronization group (col. 11, lines 33-48);
- a synchronization function to enable the user of the first and second computer to synchronize with a member of the synchronization group (col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19); and
- a navigation function to enable control of the Internet navigation of a computer of the member of the synchronization group based upon the Internet navigation of the first computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claims **6**, **18**, **65**, **68** and **79**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the first script can call a function of the first control (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claims **5**, **7**, **17**, **19**, **67** and **78**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the first script can send data to and receive data from the first control (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19), and
- wherein the second script can send data to and receive data from the second control (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claims **30** and **56**, Shelton further discloses:

- the step of enabling the user of the second computer to login to a synchronization group (col. 11, lines 33-48).

As per claims **69** and **80**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the first script can send data to and receive data from the function of the first control (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claims **70** and **81**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the first script is operable in connection with the first computer by opening a Web page containing the first script (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claim **82**, Shelton discloses:

- a login function to enable the user of the first computer to login to a coupling group(col. 11, lines 33-48); and
- a coupling function to enable the user of the first computer to couple with a member of the coupling group (col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

As per claim **83**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the function of the first control further comprises a navigation function to enable control of the Internet navigation of a computer of the member of the coupling group based upon the Internet navigation of the first computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

3. Claims **10**, **22**, **24**, **34**, **38**, **44**, **50**, **58**, **60**, **72** and **84** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton in view of Gavrilescu and in further view of Bauer, Jr. et al (hereinafter, "Bauer", US 2002/0083134).

As per claims **10**, **22**, **38**, **44** and **72**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the function of the first control further comprises an instant message function to enable a user of the first computer to send an instant message to a member of the synchronization group, and
- wherein the function of the second control further comprises an instant message function to enable the user of the second computer to send an instant message to a member of the synchronization group.

Bauer discloses a method and system of collaborative browsing including:

- wherein the function of the first control further comprises an instant message function to enable a user of the first computer to send an instant message to a member of the synchronization group (paragraphs 0034 and 0046-0048); and
- wherein the function of the second control further comprises an instant message function to enable the user of the second computer to send an instant message to a member of the synchronization group (paragraphs 0034 and 0046-0048).

Given the teaching of Bauer, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate or implement an instant messaging function in Shelton in view of Gavrilescu in order to allow clients to chat, send private messages and communicate with other freely.

As per claim **24**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly disclose:

- the step of enabling the user of the first computer to send an instant message to the user of the second computer.

Bauer discloses a method and system of collaborative browsing including:

- the step of enabling the user of the first computer to send an instant message to the user of the second computer (paragraphs 0034 and 0046-0048).

Given the teaching of Bauer, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate or implement an instant messaging function in Shelton in view of Gavrilescu in order to allow clients to chat, send private messages and communicate with other freely.

As per claim **34**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly disclose:

- the step of enabling the user of the second computer to send an instant message to the user of the first computer.

Bauer discloses a method and system of collaborative browsing including:

- the step of enabling the user of the second computer to send an instant message to the user of the first computer (paragraphs 0034 and 0046-0048).

Given the teaching of Bauer, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate or implement an instant messaging function in Shelton in view of Gavrilescu in order to allow clients to chat, send private messages and communicate with other freely.

As per claims **50**, **58**, and **60**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein said processor being further operable in connection with software to enable the user of the first and second computer to send an instant message to a member of the synchronization group.

Bauer discloses a method and system of collaborative browsing including:

- wherein said processor being further operable in connection with software to enable the user of the first and second computer to send an instant message to a member of the synchronization group (paragraphs 0024, 0034 and 0046-0048).

Given the teaching of Bauer, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate or implement an instant messaging function in Shelton in view of Gavrilescu in order to allow clients to chat, send private messages and communicate with other freely.

As per claim **84**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the function of the first control further comprises an instant message function to enable a user of the first computer to send an instant message to a member of the coupling group.

Bauer discloses a method and system of collaborative browsing including:

- wherein the function of the first control further comprises an instant message function to enable a user of the first computer to send an instant message to a member of the coupling group (paragraphs 0034 and 0046-0048).

Given the teaching of Bauer, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate or implement an instant messaging function in Shelton in view of Gavrilescu in order to allow clients to chat, send private messages and communicate with other freely.

4. Claims **3**, **13**, **15**, **25- 28**, **31**, **33**, **40**, **46**, **51-55**, **57**, **61** and **76** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton in view of Gavrilescu and in further view of Lee et al (hereinafter, "Lee", US 2002/0035603).

As per claims **3**, **13**, **15**, **40**, **46** and **76**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the first and second control comprises an ActiveX control.

Lee discloses a method for collaborative browsing using transformation of URL including:

- wherein the first and second control comprises an ActiveX control (paragraphs 0028-0030).

Given the teaching of Lee, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Shelton in view of Gavrilescu by allowing the web browser to download an active control supporting collaborating browsing allowing clients to view the same URL at one time.

As per claims **25**, **31**, **51**, and **57**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu discloses:

- providing a script that accepts data input from the user of the first and second computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19);
- a login function that generates a login identification and that receives the data input to the script from the user of the first computer, transmitting the data input and login identification to the server, receiving login confirmation or rejection from the server and passing the login confirmation or rejection data to the script (col. 11, lines 33-48).

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly teach an ActiveX control.

Lee discloses a method for collaborative browsing using transformation of URL including:

- an ActiveX control (paragraphs 0028-0030).

Given the teaching of Lee, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Shelton in view of Gavrilescu by allowing the web browser to download an active control supporting collaborating browsing allowing clients to view the same URL at one time.

As per claims **26**, **33**, **52**, **55** and **61**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu discloses:

- providing a script that accepts data input from the user of user of the first and second computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly teach the steps of:

- wherein a script creates an XML feed of the data; and
- providing an ActiveX control defining a synchronization identification and that receives the XML feed from the script, the ActiveX control transmitting the XML feed and synchronization identification to the server.

Lee discloses a method for collaborative browsing using transformation of URL including:

- wherein the script creates an XML feed of the data (paragraphs 0028-0031); and
- providing an ActiveX control defining a synchronization identification and that receives the XML feed from the script, the ActiveX control transmitting the XML feed and synchronization identification to the server (paragraphs 0028-0031).

Given the teaching of Lee, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Shelton in view of Gavrilescu by allowing the web browser to download an active control supporting collaborating browsing allowing clients to view the same URL at one time.

As per claims **27** and **53**, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu discloses:

- providing a browser helper object (BHO) control for receiving a navigation message from the Internet browser when the user of the first computer navigates from a first Internet web page to a second Internet web page (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19);
- providing a script for receiving the navigation message from the BHO control (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu does not explicitly teach the steps of:

- creating an XML feed of navigation message; and
- providing an ActiveX control defining a synchronization identification and that receives the XML feed from the script, the ActiveX control transmitting the XML feed and synchronization identification to the server to control the Internet navigation of the second computer based upon the Internet navigation of the first computer.

Lee discloses a method for collaborative browsing using transformation of URL including:

- creating an XML feed of navigation message (paragraphs 0028-0031); and
- providing an ActiveX control defining a synchronization identification and that receives the XML feed from the script, the ActiveX control transmitting the XML feed and synchronization identification to the server to control the Internet navigation of the second computer based upon the Internet navigation of the first computer (paragraphs 0028-0031).

Given the teaching of Lee, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Shelton in view of Gavrilescu by allowing the web browser to download an active control supporting collaborating browsing allowing clients to view the same URL at one time.

As per claims **28** and **54**, Shelton discloses:

- wherein the navigation message comprises a URL for the second internet web page (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

5. Claims **29**, **35** and **59** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton in view of Gavrilescu and in further view of Bauer and in further view of Lee et al (hereinafter, "Lee", US 2002/0035603).

As per claims **29**, **35** and **59**, Shelton in view of Craig and in further view of Bauer discloses:

- providing a script that accepts data input from the user of user of the first and second computer (abstract, col. 4, lines 28-67, col. 5, lines 1-44, col. 7, lines 25-41, col. 11, lines 33-48 and col. 13, lines 1-19).

However, Shelton in view of Gavrilescu and in further view of Bauer does not explicitly teach the steps of:

- wherein a script creates an XML feed of the data; and
- providing an ActiveX control defining a synchronization identification and that receives the XML feed from the script, the ActiveX control transmitting the XML feed and synchronization identification to the server.

Lee discloses a method for collaborative browsing using transformation of URL including:

- wherein the script creates an XML feed of the data (paragraphs 0028-0031); and
- providing an ActiveX control defining a synchronization identification and that receives the XML feed from the script, the ActiveX control transmitting the XML feed and synchronization identification to the server (paragraphs 0028-0031).

Given the teaching of Lee, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Shelton in view of Gavrilescu and in further view of Bauer by allowing the web browser to download an active control supporting collaborating browsing allowing clients to view the same URL at one time.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-31, 33-61 and 63-84 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,192,394 to Gutfreund et al

U.S. Pat. No. 6,564,261 to Gudjonsson et al

U.S. Pat. No. 6,144,991 to England

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
March 3, 2005

ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100